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Chinese Jail UPI Reporter

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Bill Yin, United Press International reporter who went into Red China on an assignment last July, has been imprisoned there on spy charges.

The news of Yin's whereabouts came out this week in a Communist newspaper which circulates in Hong Kong. The New China News Agency reported he had been sentenced for a year for allegedly spying. He is a Chinese national who was born in Shanghai 26 years ago but he had lived in Hong Kong since he was a child.

Earnest Hoberecht, UPI vice-president and general manager for Asia, said he had sent Yin to interview William Downey who had been given special permission by the State Department to visit his brother, John, one of five Americans held in Red China.

"He went into Communist China with the full agreement and cooperation of the officials," Mr. Hoberecht said. "Apparently he was thrown in jail and held for months before being tried on trumped-up charges."

The news report indicated Yin had been picked up nine days after he entered Red China from Hong Kong. He pleaded guilty to spying, the news agency said, and was sentenced Jan. 31.

Specifically, according to this report, Yin was accused of collecting political and military intelligence and employing monetary means to buy over personnel in a hotel.